DEAR+COMICS-230

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Makoto Tateno Presents

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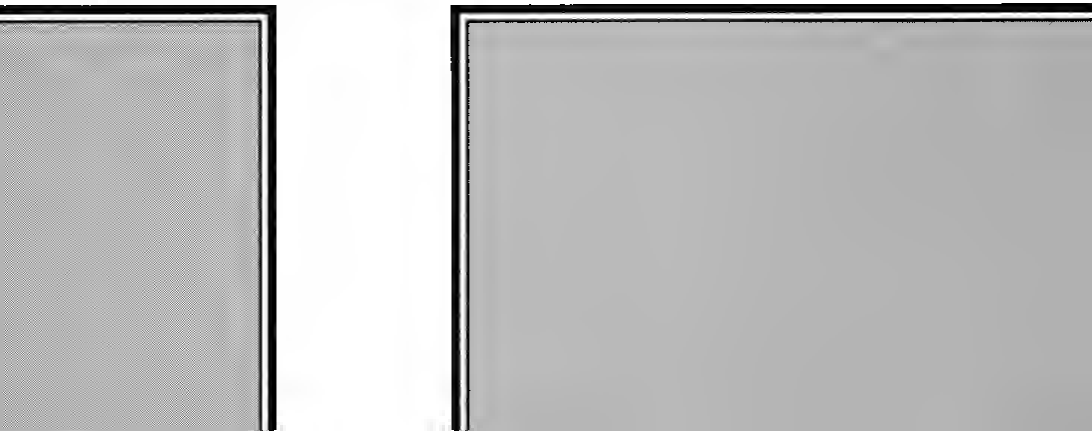
MAKOTO たての・まこと TATENO

Dear+COMICS230/SHINSHOKAN

ROMEO X ROMEO - 1

BY
TATENO
MAKOTO

MAKOTO TATENO PRESENTS



DEARS COMICS 230

MAKOTO TATENO PRESENTS

ROMEO X ROMEO 1

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AH!
THERE THEY ARE, THE 'RYOSEI' GUYS!
MY, MY! DON'T THEY LOOK PISSED!
IT'S EASY TO SEE THAT THEY DIDN'T WANT TO COME HERE.
AH, THAT ONE!
IS THAT THE 'ROMEO' AT THEIR SIDE?
ROMEO X ROMEO
round 1

BET X BET
round.1-1
ROMEO X ROMEO

PRIVATE SCHOOL YUSEI AND PRIVATE ACADEMY RYOSEI ARE BOTH ALL BOYS SCHOOLS, FOUNDED BY THE SAME PERSON.
THEY ARE BROTHER SCHOOLS WITH SIMILAR RANKINGS AND ACCEPTANCE RATES TO COLLEGES. PEOPLE USUALLY REFER TO THEM AS YURYO.
NOTE: YURYO CAN ALSO MEAN 'EXCELLENCE'
HOWEVER, THE NAME ALSO REMINDS PEOPLE OF A WORD WITH THE SAME PRONOUNCIATION.
WELL THEN, LET'S GET TO THE FORM-ALI-TIES.
52ND STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT OF YUSEI SCHOOL, TAKASHI
AND 52ND STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT OF RYOSEI ACADEMY, MIZUTO MAISAKA.

WE HAVE GATHERED HERE TO START THE PLANNING OF OUR 52ND FOUNDING FESTIVAL.

FIRST, AS THE HOST,
OUR PRESIDENT WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME EVERYONE.

MY NAME IS MASAOKA.
ON BEHALF OF YUSEI SCHOOL,
I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE TODAY FOR THE PLANNING OF THE FOUNDING FESTIVAL, BROTHERS OF 'YURYO'!
UM... PRESI-DENT MAISAKA?
I WONDER IF YOU COULD STOP CALLING US THAT.
IT'S MOST UN-PLEASANT.

"YURYO" HAS THE MEANING OF EXCELLENCE, BUT YU AND RYO CAN ALSO HAVE THE MEANING GRADE A - GRADE B, GIVING YU A MORE SUPERIOR POSITION THAN RYO.
WHAT!?
SO IT IS TRUE THAT RYOSEI HATE HEARING THE TERM YURYO.
EVEN THOUGH IT'S NOTHING YOU HAVE TO BE ASHAMED ABOUT.
DON'T YOU DARE ADDRESS OUR PRESIDENT ...
IT'S OKAY.
MY APOLOGIES!
CALM DOWN, SHIMAYA.
WE ARE THE ONES STUCK WITH BEING CALLED 'CLASS-B' BECAUSE OF OUR 'RYO'.
EVEN THOUGH THE ACTUAL INTENDED MEANING FOR RYO IS 'REFRESHING'!
THAT'S EASY FOR YOU GUYS TO SAY!!
YOU GUYS HAVE THE 'YU' PART!!
OUR EXCUSES, OUR SECRETARY IS A BIT OUT OF LINE.
WELL NOW, MIZUTO?
BUT, MR. VICE PRESIDENT...
WHICH IS WHY STUDENTS FROM RYOSEI ACADEMY CAN'T STAND THE TERM YURYO.

MY APOLOGIES!
IT SEEMS THAT WE'VE STARTED OFF ON THE WRONG FOOTING.
... FINE!
PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR MANNERS.
IT'S OKAY.
IN THE COMING MONTHS UNTIL THE END OF THE FOUNDING FESTIVAL,
LET'S TRY OUR BEST TO GET ALONG.
HOWEVER...
WE'LL MAKE SURE THAT THIS YEAR, WE'LL BE THE ONES WHO TAKE HOME 'JULIET'.

WHAT ?
...
WE WON'T ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN.
WE'LL TAKE "HER" THIS YEAR JUST LIKE WE DID LAST YEAR.
BE-SIDES,
YOU SEEM VERY MUCH ALIKE JULIET YOURSELF.

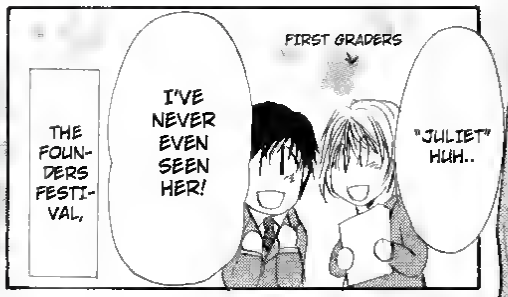
NOW WE'VE GOT THESE FORMALI-TIES OUT OF THE WAY,
LET'S RESUME THE DISCUSSION NEXT TIME!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
PRESI-DENT,
ARE YOU OKAY?
OF COURSE ...
WHAT'S UP WITH THAT RUDE ATTITUDE OF THEIRS!?
PLEASE EXCUSE OUR PRESI-DENT.
IT'S FINE. AND YOU ARE...?
I AM RYOSEI'S TREASU-RER, HATORI.
HA-TORI!
YOU SHOULD BETTER BE GOING.
WAIT UP!
IT'S EXACTLY LIKE THE RUMORS...

ON THE CONTRARY!
DOESN'T THIS MAKE THINGS MUCH MORE EXCITING, IN A WAY?
WHAT A SNOB!
RYOSEI'S PRESIDENT THIS YEAR IS AN EXCEPTIONAL BEAUTY, BUT EQUALLY STUCK-UP!
THIS ISN'T GOING TO BE AN EASY RIDE.
WHAT WAS THE FOUNDER EVEN THINKING WHEN SETTING THINGS UP LIKE THIS!?
THEY WERE OUT OF LINE AS WELL.
MIZUTO! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WAS OUT OF LINE THERE. DO YOU REALIZE THAT?
BUT EVEN SO,
YOU SHOULDN'T LOSE YOUR COOL LIKE THAT.
HE HIT A VERY SENSITIVE SPOT, AND I'M SURE HE WAS VERY WELL AWARE OF THAT.
IT'S NOTHING YOU HAVE TO BE ASHAMED ABOUT.

YEAH, SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
IS IT TRUE YOU GUYS ARE CHILD-HOOD FRIENDS ?
MR. VICE PRESIDENT, YOU'RE ABOUT THE ONLY ONE OUR PRESIDENT LISTENS TO!
I'M NOT DOING IT JUST BECAUSE RYO TELLS ME TO.
I'M DOING IT FOR THE FESTIVAL.

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT. I'LL WATCH IT NEXT TIME.
YOU'RE THE PRESIDENT AFTER ALL.

AND I WAS SERIOUS ABOUT WHAT I SAID EARLIER.
THIS YEAR, WE'LL BE SURE TO TAKE BACK "JULIET"!


FIRST GRADERS
THE FOUN-DERS FESTI-VAL,
I'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN HER!
"JULIET" HUH..

IT'S IN FACT A CONTEST BETWEEN YUSEI AND RYOSEI, SET UP BY THE FOUNDER.
SPORTS AND CULTURE CLUBS FROM BOTH SCHOOLS COMPETE AGAINST EACH OTHER IN VARIOUS CATEGORIES.
THE SIDE WHO COMES OUT WITH THE BEST SCORE WINS THE RIGHT TO HOUSE A CRYSTAL MARIA STATUE,
THE SO-CALLED "JULIET".
WHY DID THEY CALL THE MARIA STATUE "JULIET"?
IT'S BECAUSE THE STATUE IS CUTER THAN ANY OTHER MARIA STATUE.
ONE PRESIDENT CALLED HER JULIET, AND IT STUCK.
ANYWAY!
WE HAVEN'T WON THE STATUE FOR TWO YEARS IN A ROW!
IT'S ABOUT TIME WE GET HER BACK!
...WITH THAT IN MIND, I'LL PUT UP WITH THEIR CRAP!
BE CAREFUL NOT TO GET TOO FRIENDLY THOUGH...
I HEARD THEIR PRESIDENT IS...
...HUH?
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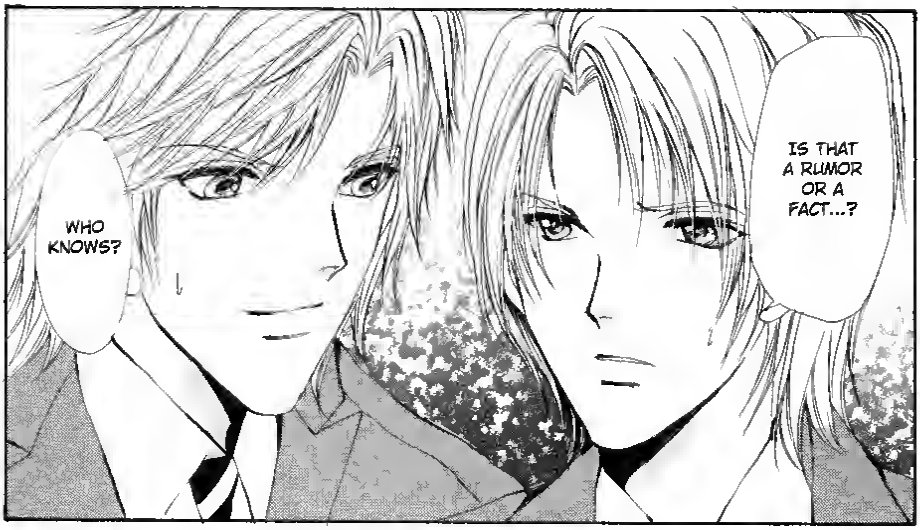

IS THAT A RUMOR OR A FACT...?
WHO KNOWS?

...
MR. PRESIDENT?

HUH? NOT REALLY.
DO I?
DON'T ACT AS IF THERE'S NO TRUTH IN MY WORDS.
HE'S YOUR TYPE, ISN'T HE? ...RYOSEI'S PRES...

YOU SEEM QUITE... EXCITED ABOUT SOMETHING ...

IF I HAD TO SAY, HE'S ACTUALLY THE OPPOSITE OF THE TYPE I LIKE.
HE'S JUST LIKE MY NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOUR'S PET CAT. NOTHING BUT A BIG EGO.
YOU'RE SUCH A LIAR...
UH...
AH! W-WAIT...
T-THAT FEELS TOO INTENSE ...!
I PREFER MY OWN CAT MUCH MORE.
HOWEVER, IT MIGHT BE FUN TO TAME SUCH A SNOB,
JUST TO ABANDON HIM AFTER-WARDS.
NO...
PRESI-DENT...

YEAH, THAT SOUNDS FUN.
HEY MIZUTO! DON'T PUT ON THAT FACE!
THE YUSEI GANG WILL BE ARRIVING HERE ANY MINUTE.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I'M PUTTING ON THIS FACE!
IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT FOR TELLING ME ABOUT RUMORS LIKE THAT.
FOR ALL I KNOW, IT'S NOTHING MORE THAN A RUMOR, THOUGH...
THE PRESIDENT AND THE OTHERS FROM YUSEI HAVE ARRIVED.
THANK YOU FOR HAVING US.

WELCOME TO RYOSEI.
THE CAMPUS LOOKS AS SPLENDID AS USUAL.
A BIG CONTRAST TO OUR, HOMEY DWELLINGS...
ARE YOU IMPLYING THAT WE'RE SNOB-BISH?
NOT AT ALL!
I TRULY APPRECIATE THE EXTRA ELBOW ROOM!
MIZU-TO!
I KNOW...
COULD YOU LET GO OF MY HAND?
OH?
FORGIVE ME!
IS ANYTHING THE MATTER...?

WELL THEN,
PLEASE HAVE A SEAT.
...NO, NO-THING.
REGARDING THE LOCATION OF THE CLUB CONTESTS...
BOTH OUR CULTURE AND SPORT'S CLUBS WOULD LIKE A FAIR CONTEST.
THAT'S TRUE.
EVERY ONE OF THE CONTESTANTS WOULD PREFER THE CONTEST TO TAKE PLACE ON HIS OWN TURF.
THEREFORE, WE PROPOSE TO DIVIDE THE LOCATIONS AS DOCUMENTED.
WE'LL EVALUATE YOUR PROPOSAL WITH OUR SUPERVISING TEACHER.
AND WE WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST A TOUR OF YOUR GYM AND MARTIAL ARTS FACILITIES, IF THAT IS POSSIBLE?

S-SURE!
WOULD IT BE OKAY TO HAVE HATORI AS MY GUIDE?
NO!
OH, RIGHT...
SURE.
WE DON'T MIND SHOWING YOU AROUND.
LET'S SPLIT UP IN TWO GROUPS.
I'LL CHECK OUT THE MARTIAL ARTS FACILITIES, AND YOU GUYS CAN TOUR THE GYM.
I'LL BE YOUR GUIDE!
MIZU-TO!?
RYO, YOU SHOULD ACCOMPANY SHIMAYA TO THE GYM.
BUT, YOU'LL HAVE TO BE ALONE WITH ...
I'LL BE FINE!

THAT IS AN ORDER!
MAKE SURE TO GIVE OUR GUESTS A DECENT TOUR!
...OK
SEE YOU LATER THEN.

YOUR PEOPLE SEEM TO BE QUITE PROTECTIVE...

AND FOR JUST A TOUR AROUND THE CAMPUS.
NOT REALLY.
THEY'RE NOT USUALLY LIKE THAT.
OH?
IS THERE ANYTHING SPECIAL ABOUT THIS OCCASION THEN?

IS IT BE-CAUSE,
THEY'RE BEING WARY ABOUT ME?

I'M SURE THAT'S NOTHING BUT A RIDICULOUS RUMOR.
SO YOU HEARD THE RUMOR THAT I PREY ON STUDENTS I TAKE A LIKING TO AT MY SCHOOL?

OR SHOULD I SAY, ABOUT A CERTAIN RUMOR GOING AROUND ABOUT ME?

AREN'T YOU WORRIED IT MIGHT BE TRUE?
WITH STUDENTS, THEY MEAN BOYS, RIGHT...?
EXACT-LY.
WHY WOULD ANYONE EVEN WANT TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
CAN'T YOU GUESS?
EVEN THOUGH YOU'VE ALSO ALWAYS BEEN AT ALL BOYS' SCHOOLS, DON'T YOU KNOW ANYTHING?
STOP TRYING TO WIND ME UP. IT MAKES ME FEEL SICK!
I WOULDN'T DARE WIND YOU UP. YOU REALLY ARE LIKE A PRINCESS, AREN'T YOU?
ENOUGH AL-READY!!

SEE?

HOW EASY A KISS CAN BE, EVEN AMONG BOYS.
THINGS LIKE THIS ARE MORE COMMON THAN YOU THINK...
G...
GET AWAY FROM ME!!
MIZU-TO!

GET AWAY FROM MIZUTO!
RYO!
I WAS WORRIED, SO I CAME TO CHECK THINGS OUT, AND... AS I EXPECTED...
AS YOU EXPECTED...?
I SEE.
SO YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOLD HIM ABOUT THAT RUMOR.

RUMOR!? HAVEN'T YOU JUST PROVEN THAT THIS RUMOR IS THE TRUTH!?
GIVE ME A BREAK! I HAVE STANDARDS, YOU KNOW?
BUT SINCE I ARRIVED HERE, PEOPLE HAVE BEEN LOOKING AT ME LIKE I'M SOME KIND OF RAPIST!
IT'S RUDE!
I WAS MERELY RUFFLING YOUR FEATHERS!
REST ASSURED, PRESIDENT MAISAKA!

YOU ARE NOT MY TYPE AT ALL.
ACTUALLY, YOUR VICE PRESIDENT MIGHT BE THOUGH...
HOW-EVER,
MERCUTIO* ALREADY SEEMS TO BE IN LOVE WITH ANOTHER.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?

*ROMEO'S BEST FRIEND

MERCUTIO SEEMS TO BE IN LOVE WITH HIS OWN ROMEO!
ANYWAY,
WE'LL BE SEEING EACH OTHER AGAIN AT THE NEXT MEETING.
WE'LL HAVE TO GIVE IT OUR BEST SHOT...
AT THE FOUNDING FESTIVAL.
WHAT WAS UP WITH ALL THAT BULLSHIT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT...
MIZUTO ...

TURN THIS WAY.
EH?
R-RYO...
STOP THAT!
YOU'RE MAKING YOUR UNIFORM DIRTY!
RYO!
...DAMN IT!

...RYO?
DAMN...
THAT BASTARD!
WHY DID HE HAVE TO STEAL YOUR FIRST ONE AWAY?
MIZUTO!
I WANTED TO TELL YOU MYSELF WHEN THE TIMING WAS RIGHT!
BUT HE TOOK THAT POSSIBILITY AWAY!

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN IN LOVE WITH YOU!
I LOVE YOU!
ALL THIS TIME, SINCE THE BEGIN-NING!
MIZU-TO!
GET A HOLD ON YOURSELF ALREADY!
CALM DOWN, AND THINK ABOUT IT FOR A SECOND!!
MIZUTO, I...
YOU ...
STUPID IDIOT!!

FIRST HIM, AND NOW YOU!
HOW DARE YOU...
RIGHT AFTER I WAS HARASSED LIKE THAT...
I WAS MERELY RUFFLING YOUR FEATHERS.
YOU'RE NOT MY TYPE AT ALL.
HOW DARE HE...
I'M GOING HOME!
HUH!?
W-WAIT! MIZUTO!!

MIZUTO!
ARE'N'T YOU GOING TO GIVE ME AN ANSWER!?
SHUT UP!
AND DON'T FORGET TO GO COOL YOUR HEAD!
SO ...
WHAT'S IT GONNA BE?
WILL YOU ACCEPT YOUR BEST FRIEND'S CONFESSION?

IF NOT, WON'T YOU LOSE HIS FRIENDSHIP?
OR HAVE YOU FALLEN FOR ME, THE MARAUDER WHO STOLE A KISS?
EITHER WAY, LIFE HAS JUST GOTTEN MORE COMPLICATED FOR YOU, HASN'T IT, STUDENT PRESIDENT FROM RYOSEI?

WITH ALL THESE DISTRAC-TIONS...
"JULIET" WILL INEVITABLY STAY WITH US,
DON'T YOU THINK?

round.1-2

RYOSEI ACADEMY
LAVENDER COURT
G-
GOOD
MORNING!
OH!
IT'S
PRESIDENT
MAISAKA!
OH,
GOOD
MORNING.
MIZUTO!!

WHA, MIZUTO!! PLEASE FORGIVE ME!!
I'LL SIT OVER THERE.
YOU'RE OK WITH THE USUAL JAPANESE FOOD, RIGHT?
I GOT YOU A SEAT, SHOULD I BRING YOUR BREAKFAST?
IT'S THE PLES AND VICE!!
OVER HERE!!
I LOST MY COOL YESTERDAY, SO I TOTALLY FORGOT ABOUT YOUR FEELINGS!
BUT EVEN SO...
I MEANT EVERY WORD OF IT!
MIZU-TO!!
YOU'D BETTER STAY AWAY FROM ME TODAY!
YES, MIZUTO?
RYO...!
YESTER-DAY? WHAT ABOUT YESTER-DAY?

RYO, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU SINCE YESTERDAY?
I LOVE YOU!!
ALL THIS TIME, RIGHT FROM THE BEGIN-NING!
IT'S ALL THE FAULT OF THAT PRESIDENT FROM YUSEI,
DOING SOMETHING DISGUSTING LIKE THAT...
HE ACTUALLY WENT AS FAR AS KISSING ME,
A GUY HE DOESN'T EVEN LIKE!
WHAT THE HECK IS WRONG WITH THAT GUY...?
YUSEI SCHOOL BELLFLOWER DORM

PRESI-DENT?
GET UP ALREADY! YOU'RE GOING TO BE LATE FOR BREAKFAST!
SCREW BREAK-FAST...
YOU GO AHEAD.
YOU'RE PRETTY TOUGH FOR SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T HAVE BREAK-FAST.
I'LL BE ON MY WAY THEN.
I FEEL SO SLUG-GISH ...
WAS THERE ANYTHING ON THE SCHEDULE AGAIN, TODAY?
OH, THAT'S RIGHT...
TODAY WE'RE MEETING UP WITH 'THEM' AGAIN!

YESTERDAY, I JUST MESSED AROUND WITH HIM A LITTLE, AND LEFT...
YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE!
COMING BACK HERE AFTER WHAT YOU DID YESTERDAY!!
SHUT UP, RYO!
WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?
THIS IS ABOUT THE FOUNDING FESTIVAL, AFTER ALL!

MIZUTO !?
!
NO! I'LL BE YOUR GUIDE AGAIN TODAY!
UMM... SURE?
I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT, SO WOULD YOU GIVE ME A TOUR OF YOUR GYM?
THAT BASTARD, HE K...
RYO !!
WHAT HAPPENED YESTER-DAY?
AND END UP IN A FISTFIGHT? NOT TO MENTION, YESTERDAY HE DID SAY YOU'RE HIS TYPE.
ARGH...
THEN, LET ME...!!
I CAN'T LET HIM PREY ON ONE OF OUR FIRST GRADERS.
ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND!? AFTER WHAT HAPPENED LAST TIME!?
THIS WAY, PRESIDENT MASAOKA.
MIZUTO!
WHICH, FORTUNATELY, I'M NOT!

SO HE CONFESSED TO YOU AFTER I LEFT?
HUH?
I GUESSED RIGHT, DIDN'T I?
...NOT THAT IT'S ANY OF YOUR CONCERNS.
BUT FOR ME, RYO IS NOTHING BUT MY BEST FRIEND.
OH, POOR GUY...
HUH !?

WHAT ...
WATCH OUT!
THIS FENCE IS BROKEN.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO NERVOUS.
...YOU DON'T HAVE TO REMIND ME OF THAT!
...I'M NOT USUALLY LIKED BY PEOPLE...
LIKE I SAID YESTERDAY, YOU'RE NOT MY TYPE.

... HUH?
SINCE I WAS LITTLE... I HAVEN'T HAD ANY OTHER FRIENDS THAN RYO.
I'M USED TO PEOPLE KEEPING THEIR DISTANCE FROM ME.
I ALWAYS WONDERED... WHAT IT WOULD FEEL LIKE IF SOMEONE COULD REALLY LIKE ME THE WAY I AM. I GET THE FEELING THAT WOULD ACTUALLY ALLOW ME TO CHANGE...
HMM... BUT I GUESS ...
RYO WOULD BE THAT PERSON FOR ME AS WELL...

THAT'S ABSURD...
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK PEOPLE DON'T LIKE YOU?
BECAUSE ... PEOPLE FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE BEING NEAR ME.
THIS MORNING, EVERYONE GOT ALL TENSED UP TOO
IF SO, HOW DO YOU THINK YOU EVER MADE IT TO BECOME PRESIDENT?
FEAR YOU?
THAT'S BECAUSE THEY ALL FEAR ME!
きぴ～ん

I THINK YOU'RE LOVED BY MANY MORE PEOPLE THAN YOU MIGHT THINK.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT,
I WAS STUPID TO EVEN TALK TO YOU ABOUT THIS.
STOP IT ALREADY!
HAVEN'T YOU REALIZED?
HAHA... EXCUSE ME.
IT'S JUST BECAUSE YOU SAID THAT IN SUCH A CUTE WAY!
H-HOW DARE YOU LAUGH!?
YOU...
SINCE A FEW MINUTES AGO,
EVERYONE HAS BEEN STARING AT YOU WITH WORRY IN THEIR EYES!
PRESIDENT!
...
HUH?

HUH!? OH, NO...
I'M JUST SHOWING HIM AROUND THE CAMPUS.
IS EVERY-THING ALRIGHT !?
DID HE UPSET YOU!?
...ARE YOU SURE?
PRESI-DENT!
WE'LL GIVE IT OUR VERY BEST SHOT AT THE FOUNDING FESTIVAL! YOU CAN COUNT ON US!
SEE?
JUST TAKE A LOOK AT EVERYONE HERE.
WE CAN DO IT, GUYS! THE PRESIDENT WILL BE WATCHING!
YEAH!!

HMMM... SEEMS TO ME PEOPLE LIKE YOU JUST FINE.
...
YOU'RE ACTUALLY A GOOD GUY, AREN'T YOU?

...
YOU'RE RIGHT.
LET'S SHAKE HANDS, ON THE SUCCESS OF THIS YEAR'S FOUNDING FESTIVAL.
MIZUTO!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT!? WHERE IS YUSEI'S PRESIDENT?
HE LEFT AFTER I GAVE HIM THE TOUR OF THE FIELD AND THE GYM.
DID HE DO ANYTHING WEIRD AGAIN?

I'M SORRY RYO, FOR YELLING AT YOU LIKE THAT YESTERDAY.
HUH...?
WHAT'S THE MATTER, MIZUTO?
HUH?
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN RETURN YOUR FEELINGS.
I STILL FEEL VERY CONFUSED...
BUT... I'M GRATEFUL THAT YOU FEEL THAT WAY ABOUT ME.
MIZUTO...?
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU...?
IT'S JUST THAT SOMETHING BECAME CLEARER TO ME.
IT'S A BLESSING TO BE LIKED BY OTHERS.
DON'T YOU THINK, RYO?

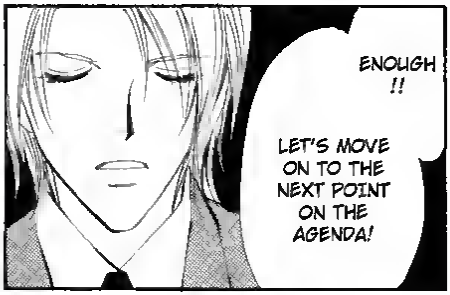
PRESI-
DENT?
YUSEI'S PRESIDENT...
HE'S ACTUALLY QUITE A NICE GUY!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
WHAT? OH, NOTHING!
HERE'S THE BUDGET REPORT FOR THE FOUNDING FESTIVAL. PLEASE HAVE A LOOK AT IT.
AND PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT THE DISPLAYS AT THE SCHOOL GATE.
HOW WAS YOUR TRIP TO RYOSEI ACADEMY TODAY?
IT WAS FINE.
EVERY-
THING
IS
GOING
ACCORDING
TO PLAN.

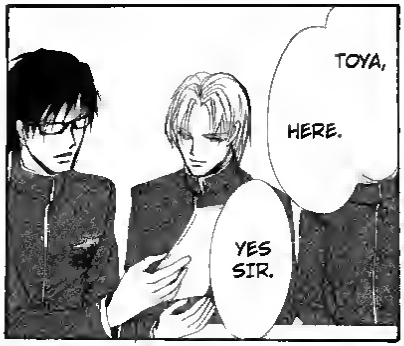
THEY'RE COMING ALONG JUST FINE, THE GUYS FROM "CLASS B".
YEAH, THEIR PREPARATIONS SEEM TO BE WELL UNDERWAY.
WE'VE GOT TO DO OUR BEST TOO, RYO.
YEAH ...
WELCOME!

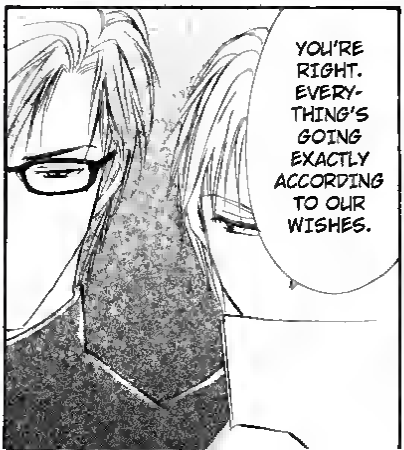
THANK YOU FOR HAVING US.
THIS WAY, PLEASE.
THE PLAN TO DIVIDE THE CONTEST GROUNDS BETWEEN THE TWO SCHOOLS
HAS BEEN APPROVED BY SUPER-VISING TEACHERS ON BOTH SIDES.
SOCCER AND BASEBALL WILL TAKE PLACE ON OUR GROUNDS. TENNIS AND RUNNING WILL BE HELD AT RYOSEI.
ARCHERY AND JUDO WILL BE DONE IN YUSEI'S FACI-LITIES.
KENDO AND KARATE WILL BE AT RYOSEI'S ...
I HAVE AN OBJECTION! SHOULDN'T SOCCER AND BASEBALL BE DIVIDED? MAINTENANCE TAKES TIME AND...
WE HAVE ENOUGH PEOPLE TO HELP OUT, SO WE DON'T REALLY MIND THAT.
YES, AND YUSEI'S GROUNDS ARE BIGGER THAN OURS AFTER ALL.
MIZUTO ...

WHA-AT !!?
IF THAT'S WHAT RYOSEI TEAMWORK IS LIKE, WILL YOU GUYS REALLY BE OKAY?
HEY, CAN'T YOU LEAVE THESE DOMESTIC DISPUTES AT HOME?

BUT SOCCER AND BASEBALL ARE THE MOST POPULAR SPORTS! IF BOTH OF THEM TAKE PLACE IN YUSEI...
RYO, WE ALREADY WENT THROUGH THIS.
IN TERMS OF EFFICIENCY, THIS IS THE MOST LOGICAL CHOICE. IT'S TOO LATE TO START BACKTRACKING NOW.


ENOUGH !!
LET'S MOVE ON TO THE NEXT POINT ON THE AGENDA!

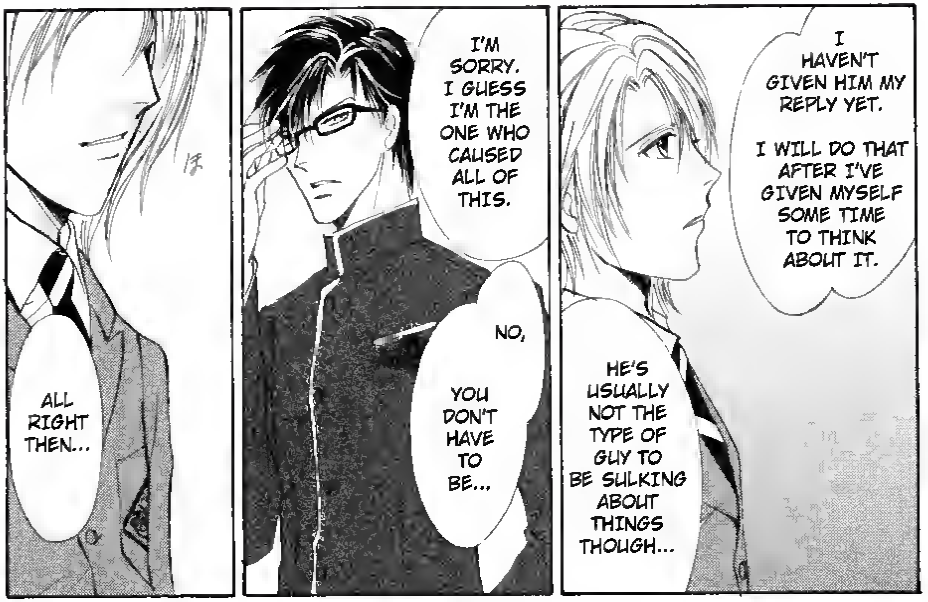

TOYA, HERE.
YES SIR.


YOU'RE RIGHT. EVERY-THING'S GOING EXACTLY ACCORDING TO OUR WISHES.

PLEASE DO SO.

THEN THAT'S DECI-DED.
WHEN WE'VE FIXED UP THE TIMETABLES, WE'LL SEND THEM TO YOU.

WOW!
IMPRES-SIVE INDEED!
I DON'T THINK OURS IS THAT BAD EITHER.
BUT THIS ONE HAS A MORE KIND OF STURDY FEEL TO IT.
IS IT REALLY OKAY FOR YOU COME HERE WITH ME ALONE? I'M SURE HE'LL BE REALLY WORRIED AGAIN.
RYO, YOU MEAN?
SORRY ABOUT THAT. HE'S NOT IN THE BEST OF MOODS LATELY.
DID YOU REJECT HIM?
THAT'S NOT IT.


I HAVEN'T GIVEN HIM MY REPLY YET.
I WILL DO THAT AFTER I'VE GIVEN MYSELF SOME TIME TO THINK ABOUT IT.
HE'S USUALLY NOT THE TYPE OF GUY TO BE SULKING ABOUT THINGS THOUGH...
I'M SORRY. I GUESS I'M THE ONE WHO CAUSED ALL OF THIS.
NO, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE...
ALL RIGHT THEN...

SO EVERY-THING'S FINE REALLY!

W-WHAT'S WRONG?
NO-THING ...
YOU'VE SEEN ENOUGH HERE, RIGHT?
I'LL SHOW YOU AN EVEN BETTER PLACE.

WHOA...
IT'S CALLED "JULIET'S BEDROOM".
THROUGH-OUT THE HISTORY OF THIS SCHOOL, THIS IS A SPECIAL ROOM WHERE ONLY THE STUDENT'S COUNCIL'S PRESIDENT HAS BEEN ALLOWED.
AN EVEN BETTER PLACE?

THESE PORTRAITS...
ARE THEY ALL OF THE YUSEI PRESIDENTS THROUGHOUT HISTORY?
I ASSUME YOUR SCHOOL HAS A SIMILAR ROOM?
I'VE ONLY HEARD ABOUT IT...
SINCE THEY DIDN'T WIN THE FESTIVAL LAST YEAR, HE HASN'T SET FOOT IN IT.
COME MEET "JULIET"!
WELL THEN,

...
THIS IS "JULIET"?
IT'S AN HONOR TO MEET YOU.
YOU TRULY ARE A BEAUTY!

HOW BEAUTIFUL...

JUST LIKE YOU!
OH, SORRY.
I REMEMBER HOW IT UPSET YOU LAST TIME I COMPARED YOU TO HER.
I DON'T MEAN IT IN AN OFFENDING WAY.
IT'S WEIRD...
HUH?

FOR SOME REASON,
I DON'T FEEL OFFENDED BY IT AT ALL TODAY.
I WOULD RATHER HEAR YOU SAY THAT,
THAN TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT I'M NOT YOUR TYPE AGAIN.

Mg..
...I'M SORRY.
MASA-OKA?
?

I'M SORRY.
I WAS ABOUT TO GET CAUGHT UP IN THE MOMENT.
BUT YOU SHOULD PUT UP SOME RESISTANCE TOO, YOU KNOW?
OR I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT TIME...
SO THERE YOU ARE!
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU!
...PEOPLE MUST BE WONDERING WHERE WE ARE.
LET'S GO.
RYO...
MIZU-TO!

BASTARD! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HIM!?
HEY!?
!?
WHAT'S WRONG, MIZUTO!?
NO...
HE...
HE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING, RYO.
NO-THING AT ALL...
SO DON'T WORRY.
...

?
RYO ...?
WHAT...
WHAT IS IT... MIZU-TO...
SOME-THING IS WEIRD ABOUT YOU!
SOME-THING HAS CHANGED!
IS IT BECAUSE OF ME?
OR IS IT ALL HIS FAULT...!?

round.1-3
MIZUTO...
YOU USED TO HAVE SO MUCH DIGNITY...
SO BEAUTI-FUL...
EVERYONE LOOKED UP TO YOU SO MUCH THAT IT WAS HARD TO EVEN BE NEAR YOU.
I FELT HONORED TO BE YOUR FRIEND.
YET, YOU'VE CHANGED NOW!
IS IT BECAUSE OF ME?
OR BECAUSE OF THAT BASTARD...!?
I HAVE CHANGED...?

HAVE I REALLY ...?
HAVE I CHANGED ...?
round.1-3

TWO DAYS PRIOR TO THE FOUNDING FESTIVAL.
WHAT?
PRESIDENT MASAOKA IS ABSENT AGAIN?
WE'RE VERY SORRY. A FEW PROBLEMS HAVE STARTED DEVELOPING AT SCHOOL, AND OUR PRESIDENT IS DOING HIS VERY BEST TO GET THINGS SORTED OUT.
HUH!? BUT TODAY IS OUR LAST MEETING BEFORE THE FESTIVAL!?
WE WERE SENT HERE AS HIS REPRESENTATIVES. WE WILL BE RELAYING ALL INFORMATION TO HIM. IS THAT OKAY?
I DON'T MIND... WE'VE ALREADY COME TO AGREEMENT ON MOST OF THE ITEMS.
LET'S GO THROUGH A FINAL CHECKLIST TODAY, AND IF WE NEED HIS INPUT, WE CAN COMMUNICATE VIA EMAIL.
LET'S GET THIS UNDERWAY!
YES SIR!

DIDN'T THE MEETING GO MUCH MORE SMOOTHLY WITHOUT ME BEING THERE?
I DON'T WANT TO DEAL WITH HIM ANYMORE...
I TAKE IT THE MEETING WENT WELL?
THANKS TO OUR EFFORTS, YES.
WHY ARE YOU MAKING US LIE FOR YOU?
PLEASE STOP FOOLING AROUND AL-READY, PRESI-DENT!
I'M JUST NOT GOOD AT DEALING WITH PURE-HEARTED PEOPLE LIKE HIM.
I DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS THAT TYPE OF GUY. HE'S JUST LIKE A CHILD, YOU SEE...
DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT WAS YOUR PLAN IN ORDER TO MESS UP RYOSEI'S MORALE?
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WERE GOING TO TAME RYOSEI'S SNOBBISH PRESIDENT, IN ORDER TO DUMP HIM AFTERWARDS?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, AT A TIME LIKE THIS!?

YOU DIDN'T HEAR THAT RIGHT, PRESIDENT MAISAKA?
!
OOPS ?
EXCUSE ME FOR THAT!
TOYA!? WHAT'S THE MEANING OF TH...
PLEASE EXCUSE ME!
OUR PRESIDENT CAN BE SUCH A JERK SOMETIMES.
HE COULD CHARM THE VENOM OUT OF A COBRA!
BUT HE SAID HE'S HAD ENOUGH OF YOU AL-READY,
SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT ANYMORE, PRESI-DENT.

TH-
THAT BASTARD!!
WE'RE ALL JUST LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FOUNDING FESTIVAL!
DID YOU HEAR ALL OF THAT, MIZUTO!?
TAME ME, JUST TO DUMP ME AFTERWARDS HUH...
MIZUTO?
...YOU WERE RIGHT, RYO!
I REALIZE NOW THAT I REALLY HAVE CHANGED.
BEFORE, THIS WOULD HAVE MADE ME SPITTING MAD...
BUT NOW...

...IT WAS BOTH YOU AND MASAOKA WHO CHANGED ME!
I'VE BECOME ABLE TO SEE THINGS MUCH MORE CLEARLY NOW!
TOYA, THAT FOOL!!

HE MUST HAVE HEARD EVERY-THING.
HE MUST DESPISE ME NOW,
WITH THOSE BEAUTIFUL, HONEST EYES OF HIS...
THE SCORN TOWARDS ME IN HIS EYES WOULD DEVASTATE ME ...

I SHOULD HAVE STAYED AWAY FROM HIM!
BEFORE I COULD EVEN REALIZE IT, I'D FALLEN FOR HIM!
HE'S A PURE PERSON BOTH INSIDE AND OUT.
I WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO RUN AWAY FROM THIS, BUT NOW...

...IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE!
IT SCARES ME TO FACE HIM AS MY ENEMY.
MY DESIRES SEEM THAT THEY WILL NEVER BE FULFILLED.
HE'S THE "ROMEO" ON THE OPPOSING SIDE, AFTER ALL...

52ND FOUNDERS FESTIVAL
第五十二回
創始祭
AT LAST,
ON THE DAY OF THE FOUNDING FESTIVAL.
WELL THEN,
PRESI-DENT?
PAPER: FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

HERE'S TODAY'S SCHEDULE. THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT OUR SCHOOL. WHEN ALL CONTESTANTS AND SPECTATORS HAVE GATHERED, BOTH PRESIDENTS WILL DO THEIR WELCOMING SPEECHES.
AFTERWARDS, AT BOTH SCHOOLS, CONTESTS WILL BE HELD AT THEIR RESPECTIVE GROUNDS.
AFTER WATCHING THE GAMES, THE PRESIDENTS WILL COME BACK HERE TO ATTEND THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SCORES.
TOYA... DON'T YOU FEEL ANY SHAME...
HUH?
ISN'T THAT SUPPOSED TO BE MY LINE?
I HATE INCOMPETENT PEOPLE, YOU SEE.
RYOSEI'S PRESIDENT WILL BE ARRIVING HERE SHORTLY.
SO YOU'D BETTER PREPARE YOURSELF.

LOOK! IT'S PRESIDENT MAISAKA!
WOW! THE FORMAL ATTIRE!
THAT'S THE ORIGINAL UNIFORM FROM WHEN THE SCHOOL WAS FOUNDED.
AS MUCH AS I HATE TO ADMIT IT, HE LOOKS REALLY COOL.
OH!
HERE COMES PRESIDENT MASAOKA!

NOW, YUSEI'S PRESIDENT, TAKASHI MASAOKA,
WILL UNVEIL THE CRYSTAL STATUETTE KNOWN AS "JULIET"!
GENTLE-MEN!
WELCOME TO THE 52ND FOUNDING FESTIVAL!!
お!
NOW, THE PRESIDENTS WILL GIVE THEIR OPENING SPEECH.
MOST OF THE TEACHERS ARE ALUMNI.
GET 'EM BOYS!
TODAY WILL DETERMINE,
WHICH SCHOOL HAS THE HONOR TO HOUSE "JULIET" NEXT YEAR!
WHOA... SO THAT'S "JULIET"!

ヨト
GENTLE-MEN!
IN ACCORDANCE WITH A LONG TRADITION, THE DAY OF THE FOUNDING FESTIVAL HAS COME ONCE AGAIN.
BY SHOWING THE RESULTS OF EACH SCHOOL'S HARD WORK AND PRACTICE, WITHOUT SAVING A SINGLE DROP OF SWEAT,
WE WANT TO HONOR EVERY ONE OF OUR PREDECES-SORS! WE'LL BE SHOWING YOU ALL WE HAVE TO GIVE!
OF COURSE, EACH SCHOOL'S GOAL IS ALSO ...
TO CLAIM "JULIET" AS THEIR OWN!

ATHLETES, PLEASE REPORT TO THE FIRST COMPETITION GROUND.
WE'RE GOING TO WIN THIS FOR THE SAKE OF OUR PRESI-DENT!!
WE WON'T BE LOSING TO THAT B-CLASS SCHOOL.
MIZU-TO!
THE FIRST MATCH WILL BE BASKET-BALL!
LET'S GO!
YEAH...

THERE!
THE GAME IS DECIDED!
THE WINNER IS RYOSEI!
NICE!
RYO-SEI!
YUSEI WON!
...THEY'RE LEADING BY TWO POINTS!
IT'S PRETTY DESPERATE, HUH? IT HELPS TO HAVE SOMEONE WITH CHARISMA AROUND.
THE PRESI-DENT?

IT'S THE PRESIDENT...
MY DEAR SOCCER TEAM!
DANG, ARE WE REALLY GOING TO LOSE THIS ??
I BELIEVE IN YOU!
PRESI-DENT!
JUST LEAVE IT TO US!

THE CONTESTS ARE ALMOST OVER...
JUST TENNIS AND JUDO ARE LEFT.
MASAOKA?
H-HI THERE.

EVERY-THING SEEMS TO BE RUNNING SMOO-THLY.
Y-YEAH...
BOTH SIDES ARE TRULY GOING ALL OUT FOR THE FINAL VICTORY. WE CAN'T KNOW YET WHO WILL BE THE ONE TO TAKE IT.
EVERYONE'S GIVING IT THEIR VERY BEST SHOT.
Y-YEAH...
W-WAIT, STOP RIGHT THERE.
HUH? WHAT'S WRONG?
NO... WELL... JUST DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!
I KNOW YOU'RE ANGRY...
HUH?
DIDN'T YOU HEAR TOYA'S PHONECALL THE OTHER DAY?
YEAH ...
I'M SORRY. IT WAS JUST A STUPID JOKE.
IT WAS JUST BECAUSE YOU WEREN'T AWARE OF SO MANY THINGS ...
AWARE OF WHAT...?
UMM... ABOUT YOUR VICE PRESI-DENT'S FEELINGS FOR YOU, AND YOUR OWN...
MY OWN WHAT ...?

THANK YOU FOR THAT.
YOUR OWN...
UMM... CHARM ...?
...EH?
IT'S TRUE THAT THERE WERE MANY THINGS I HADN'T REALIZED YET.
IT MUST HAVE SEEMED EASY TO TAME ME, JUST TO DUMP ME LATER ON.
NO, WELL...
AND FOR YOU, IT MUST HAVE BEEN AN EASY THING TO DO.
BUT...
PLEASE TELL ME,

WHY WAS IT THAT YOU RAN AWAY FROM ME BEFORE YOU COULD EVEN DO ANYTHING?
M-MAI-SAKA..
THAT DAY,
YOU COULD HAVE DONE ANYTHING YOU WANTED WITH ME.
I WOULDN'T HAVE RESISTED IT...
WHAT ...
THAT IS... IF YOU REALLY LOVE ME.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
I RAN FROM YOU BECAUSE I LOVE YOU?
BEFORE YOU WERE UNDER-ESTIMATING YOUR CHARM, BUT NOW YOU'RE OVER-ESTIMATING IT!
YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW HOW TO KEEP THE BALANCE, DO YOU?
WHAT !?
IT WOULD BE SO MUCH EASIER IF YOU JUST ADMITTED IT!
HAH !
WHY WOULD I EVER FALL IN LOVE WITH THE PRESIDENT OF A B-CLASS SCHOOL?
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO SAY IT LIKE THAT AGAIN...
AM I WRONG TO SAY IT THAT WAY?
WITH SUCH SIMPLETONS FOR PRESI-DENTS, YOU GUYS DESERVE TO BE CALLED B-CLASS.
LOOK WHO'S HAVING TROUBLE KEEPING BALANCED NOW, YOU COWARD!
COWARD? HOW RUDE OF YOU...
OH! THERE YOU ARE!!
BOTH OF YOU, WE'RE HAVING A CRISIS!

WHAT IS IT, SHIMAYA?
THE FINAL SCORES WERE JUST ANNOUNCED...
WHAT!? A TIE!?
WHAT HAPPENS AT A TIME LIKE THIS? AND WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO "JULIET"!?
THIS HAS HAPPENED TWICE BEFORE...
IF WE FOLLOW THE TRADITION,
THE WINNER WILL BE DECIDED IN AN ARM-WRESTLING MATCH BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS!!

ARM-WRESTLING?
BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS !?
IS THIS FOR REAL!?
YES, MIZUTO HAS ALWAYS BEEN STRONG.
ACTUALLY, MIZUTO IS QUITE STRONG. HE USED TO DO KARATE A LONG TIME AGO.
REAL-LY!?
BUT...
ISN'T OUR PRESIDENT AT A DISADVANTAGE THEN?
MIZU-TO...
ALL RIGHT, GET IN POSITION.
JUST BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO SHARE HIM WITH ANYONE ELSE.
THE SNOBBISH PRINCESS WHO CHOOSES HER OWN FRIENDS,
I'M THE ONE WHO MADE EVERYONE THINK THAT.
IT'S A MISCONCEPTION THAT I'M AROUND OFTEN TO PROTECT HIM .

WHISPER WHISPER
READY?
GET SET!
GO-!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH OUR PRESI-DENT?
HUH?

PRESI-
DENT
MAISAKA!!
YOU CAN
DO IT!!
PRESIDENT
MASAOKA!!
GIVE IT YOUR
BEST SHOT!
YOU
TOO!
FOR HAVING
SUCH A PRETTY
FACE, YOU'RE
QUITE STRONG.
...!
MIZUTO!
GO FOR
IT!!

KISS
!?

PRESIDENT! THAT WAS AMAZING!
WHA!
OH!!
WE HAVE A WIN-NER!
MAISAKA FROM RYOSEI!
HEY!
WAIT A SECOND! WHAT WAS THAT!?
SOMETHING HAPPENED WHEN HE MOVED HIS FACE CLOSER!
ENOUGH!

HE WON.
AND I LOST.
HE TOTALLY...
KICKED MY ASS.

FROM THE MOMENT I FELL IN LOVE WITH HIM...
GENTLE-MEN! "JULIET" IS OURS!
PRESIDENT!

WITH THIS,
THE 52ND EDITION OF THE FOUNDING FESTIVAL HAS BEEN CONCLUDED!

YOU REALLY CAME...
OF COURSE!
I ALWAYS KEEP MY WORD.
IF I WIN, I WILL COME TO YOUR DORM TONIGHT.

MY ROMEO,
YOU'RE A SHREWD STRATE-GIST.
COME ON,
HELP ME UP THERE.
ROMEO,
OH ROMEO...
ONCE I HOLD YOU IN MY ARMS,
COME FAST, CLIMB OVER THE RIDGE OF MY BALCONY.

I WILL TEACH YOU SOME REALLY NAUGHTY THINGS.
ARE YOU PREPARED FOR THAT?
BEFORE THAT, THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU FIRST.
YEAH, I THOUGHT YOU'D SAY THAT.
I LOVE YOU-...
I WILL NEVER LET YOU GO.
end.

ROMEO X ROMEO

round.2

HARUKI TOYA FROM CLASS 2B
PLEASE REPORT IMMEDIATELY TO THE STUDENT'S COUNCIL OFFICE!
UH!
HARUKI TOYA!
UH!
HUH?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
I FORGOT!
I HAVE A MEETING TODAY!
AT THE STUDENT'S COUNCIL?
YEAH.
BUT MR. VICE PRESIDENT...
WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT THIS?
SHOULD WE PULL IT OUT?
OF COURSE NOT.

TAKING A BREAK NOW AND THEN MAKES ME MORE EFFECTIVE OVERALL ANYWAY...
GOT IT!
THIS IS YUSEI SCHOOL IT'S A PRESTI-GIOUS ALL BOYS PREP SCHOOL.
AND I, HARUKI TOYA, AM THIS SCHOOL'S STUDENT COUNCIL'S VICE PRESIDENT.
EXCUSE ME FOR BEING LATE.
TOYA!
WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG!?
MY APOLOGIES! I WASN'T FEELING WELL.
YOU LOOK WELL ENOUGH TO ME!

I USED TO BE THE PRESIDENT'S LOVER, UNTIL HE FOUND HIS TRUE LOVE.
YES SIR!
FINE! WHATEVER! JUST SIT DOWN!
OF ALL PEOPLE,
YOU SHOULD KNOW ME THE BEST, PRESIDENT MASAOKA.
YOU KNOW I NEED A BREAK FROM TIME TO TIME.
THE STUDENT COUNCIL'S PRESIDENT OF OUR RIVAL SCHOOL, RYOSEI ACADEMY!
IMAGE
GEEZ
TRUE LOVE HUH...
AS A SIDE-NOTE, YUSEI AND RYOSEI ARE BROTHER SCHOOLS FOUNDED BY THE SAME PERSON.
LOCAL PEOPLE OFTEN REFER TO THE TWO SCHOOLS AS "YURYO".

RYOSEI STUDENTS HATE HEARING PEOPLE USE THE TERM "YURYO", BECAUSE YU-RYO ALSO HAS THE MEANING A-CLASS, B-CLASS IF YOU CHANGE THE JAPANESE CHARACTERS.
SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOUR MEETING, PRESI-DENT.
WHAT IS IT?
ACTUALLY, THERE'S A GUY- I MEAN, A PERSON HERE WHO WISHES TO SEE THE VICE PRESIDENT...
BUT...

HE'S A STUDENT FROM RYOSEI...
!
NO WAY!!
EXCUSE ME!
WOW! DID YOU SEE THAT? TOYA ACTUALLY TOOK OFF RUNNING!
I WONDER WHO IT COULD BE.
ENOUGH!
LET'S GET BACK TO TODAY'S AGENDA!
YOSHI-SHIGE!

HARUKI!
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING, COMING HERE LIKE THIS? THIS IS YUSEI, YOU KNOW!?
SO OUT IN THE OPEN!
I DON'T SEE WHAT THE BIG DEAL IS.
YOU DON'T MIND, DO YOU?
WELL, I DO MIND —
ANYWAY, I CAME HERE TO DELIVER YOU THIS.
HERE.
ご招待
invitation
...
WHAT'S THIS?
IT'S AN INVITATION FOR THE DINNER PARTY, LIKE EVERY YEAR.
THE REASON I CAME TO GIVE IT TO YOU IN PERSON, IS BECAUSE SENDING IT BY MAIL WOULD GIVE YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO COME UP WITH ALL KINDS OF EXCUSES NOT TO SHOW UP.
SO, MAKE SURE YOU'LL BE THERE.

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO GO THROUGH ALL THE TROUBLE TO DELIVER ME THIS.
IF YOU'D JUST ORDER ME TO BE THERE, I'D HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO GO.
DO YOU REALLY THINK I'D DO A HARSH THING LIKE THAT?
ANYWAY, I HANDED YOU THE INVITATION, SO I'LL BE ON MY WAY THEN.
GEEZ... DOESN'T HE HAVE ANY SHAME?
WHAT WAS THAT? WHO WAS HE?
HE SURE HAD A PRESENCE ABOUT HIM!
HE'S IN THE THIRD GRADE AT RYOSEI.
AND HE WAS WEARING A UNIFORM, SO HE CAN'T HAVE BEEN AN ALUMNI.
HE'S THE GRANDSON OF SAIJO CORPORATION'S CHAIRMAN.
SAKURADA.
AND HE'S..

LISTEN WELL, HARUKI.
THE MAN WHO WILL BECOME MY MASTER.
WE, THE TOYA FAMILY, HAVE BEEN SERVING THE SAIJO FAMILY FOR GENERATIONS.
YOU WILL CONTINUE THE TRADITION AND SERVE THE YOUNG MASTER WHEN YOU GROW UP.
BE SURE YOU SERVE SAIJO'S YOUNG MASTER WELL!
ALL RIGHT, ENOUGH OF THAT TALK!
YOUNG MASTER...
HARUKI IS MY FRIEND! NOT MY SERVANT!
EVEN IF I EVER GET MARRIED AND TAKE OVER THE COMPANY, HE'LL ALWAYS BE MY FRIEND!
NO, I WON'T.
HUH?
I WILL ALWAYS BE YOUR SERVANT.

HARUKI! PUT ON A SMILE ON YOUR FACE!
IT WOULD BE SO EMBARRASSING TO TELL HIM I CHANGED MY MIND, AFTER SO MANY YEARS...
DEFINITELY!
ALL RIGHT THEN.
AS LONG AS YOU DON'T CHANGE YOUR MIND!
THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY, SIS...
HUH?
OH, I SEE.
I'LL LOOK OUT FOR THE PERFECT GUY, AND LIVE A HAPPY LIFE.
OH, THERE'S YOSHISHIGE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
ONCE YOU GET MARRIED, YOU'LL BE SET FREE FROM ALL THIS BULLSHIT.
DON'T BE SUCH AN IDIOT! DO YOU REALLY THINK I WANT TO MARRY INTO A FAMILY THAT DOESN'T HAVE OCCASIONS LIKE THIS!?

HE HAS TRULY BECOME HANDSOME!
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT HE'S ONLY ONE YEAR OLDER THAN YOU! HE HAS SUCH A COMMANDING AURA!
HUH?
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT GETTING YOURSELF INVOLVED WITH HIM!
GIVE ME A BREAK! DO YOU REALLY THINK I WOULD GO FOR A BRAT SEVEN YEARS YOUNGER THAN ME!?
HUH?
AND BESIDES, THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
SEE?

WHAT A PERFECT COUPLE!
WHOA...
MISS SHIHOKO KASUGA, THE DAUGHTER OF THE FAMILY RUNNING KASUGA TRADING CORP!
THEY WERE INTRODUCED TO EACH OTHER AS A POSSIBILITY FOR AN ARRANGED MARRIAGE.
THEY SEEMED TO HAVE HIT IT OFF RIGHT AWAY.
IF THEIR RELATION-SHIP CONTINUES LIKE THIS,

A MARRIAGE MIGHT NOT BE THAT FAR AWAY.
HARUKI?

WHAT'S THE MATTER?
IS THERE ANYTHING ON YOUR MIND?
OR MIGHT IT BE... THAT SOMEONE MADE YOU DRINK ALCOHOL?
EVEN IF I WANTED TO DO THAT, GRAMPS WOULD NEVER ALLOW ME TO DO THAT.
I WAS JUST ENJOYING THE TOUCH OF THE WIND HERE...
I SAW YOUR FUTURE BRIDE.
SHE'S QUITE A CATCH!
EVERYONE ASSUMES TOO MUCH!
WE ONLY JUST STARTED DATING!
DO YOU THINK YOU WILL GET ALONG WITH HER...?

I JUST WANT TO HEAR YOUR OPINION.
...IF I END UP MARRYING HER, YOU'LL BE STUCK WITH HER AS WELL.
WHY WOULD THAT MATTER?
...?
IF 'I' WILL GET ALONG WITH HER...?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN...
...AND WHAT IF I SAY I DON'T LIKE HER? YOU WON'T MARRY HER?
THEY ALL SEEM THE SAME TO ME.
IT'S POINT-LESS TO ASK ME SUCH A THING.
HARUKI!
THEN DON'T ASK ME!
I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANY OF THEM.

WOMEN, THAT IS...
IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT GUYS, ANYONE IS OKAY FOR ME.
HUH...?
I'M SORRY, YOSHISHIGE...

MAYBE,
I'M NOT FIT TO BECOME A SERVANT.
I'VE KNOWN THIS ALL ALONG...
PROBABLY EVEN SINCE I WAS A KID.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN THAT TIME.
UH ...
!
HM ...
DO IT HARDER ...
HEY, ARE YOU OKAY?
DON'T WORRY...
JUST DO IT HARDER ...

I WANT TO FEEL YOU AS DEEP AS YOU CAN THRUST IT...
I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN IT,
THAT SOME TIME, THIS DAY WOULD COME.
AH,
UH...!
HM!
AHH!
OH...!
TO DO THIS WITH YOSHI-SHIGE...
AH!!
EVEN THOUGH I HAD ALWAYS BEEN HOPING ...
IT'S SO ...
...SO THICK ...
WELL, THANKS FOR THE COMPLI-MENT.

THAT SOME DAY HE WOULD BE TAKEN AWAY FROM ME!
THERE'S JUST NO WAY THAT DREAM WOULD EVER COME TRUE.
I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN IT!
MASTER YOSHISHIGE,

YOU CALLED ME HERE?
YEAH,
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT YOU TO INVESTI-GATE,
SOMETHING VERY CONFI-DENTIAL.
OH MAN...
I GUESS IT SERVES ME RIGHT.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT IN THE NAME OF THE LORD HAPPENED TO YOU,
BUT DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT DEPRESSING ATMOSPHERE AROUND YOU!
SIGH...
I JUST OVERDID IT A LITTLE, THAT'S ALL.
WHAT HAPPENED, TOYA?
YOU'RE MAKING ME WORRY!
OH, SO YOU DO CARE ABOUT ME?
OF COURSE I DO!
OH, HOW SWEET OF YOU!
SHALL I COME TO YOUR QUARTERS TONIGHT TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE FOR THAT?
T-THAT'S NOT NECESSARY.
I DON'T MEAN THAT IN AN OFFENDING WAY.
I JUST PREFER NOT TO SLEEP WITH GUYS WHO ARE DESPERATE.
BUT REALLY, WHAT HAPPENED!?
NOTHING...
I JUST...
...GOT MY HEART BROKEN...
THAT'S ALL.

A BROKEN HEART!? YOU!?
I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T WANT TO OFFEND ME...
BUT TELL ME, PRESI-DENT...
WHAT?
WHAT DOES IT FEEL LIKE TO HOLD A PERSON YOU TRULY LOVE IN YOUR ARMS?
WHAT IT FEELS LIKE...?
I SUPPOSE IT'S A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE, ISN'T IT?
SIMPLY PUTTING IT IN AND SHOOTING YOUR LOAD...
I KNOW ENOUGH WAYS HOW TO MAKE THAT FEEL PRETTY GOOD...
BUT I CAN DO THAT WITH PRETTY MUCH ANY RANDOM GUY.
ISN'T THERE SOMETHING MORE MEANINGFUL THAN THAT?
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU REALLY WANT A SERIOUS ANSWER HERE...
BUT, WORDS COULD NEVER DESCRIBE WHAT REAL BLISS IS LIKE.
WHEN YOU HOLD THAT PERSON IN YOUR ARMS, YOU REALIZE YOU ONLY WANT HIM, AND NO ONE ELSE!
YOUR FEELINGS JUST BOIL OVER.

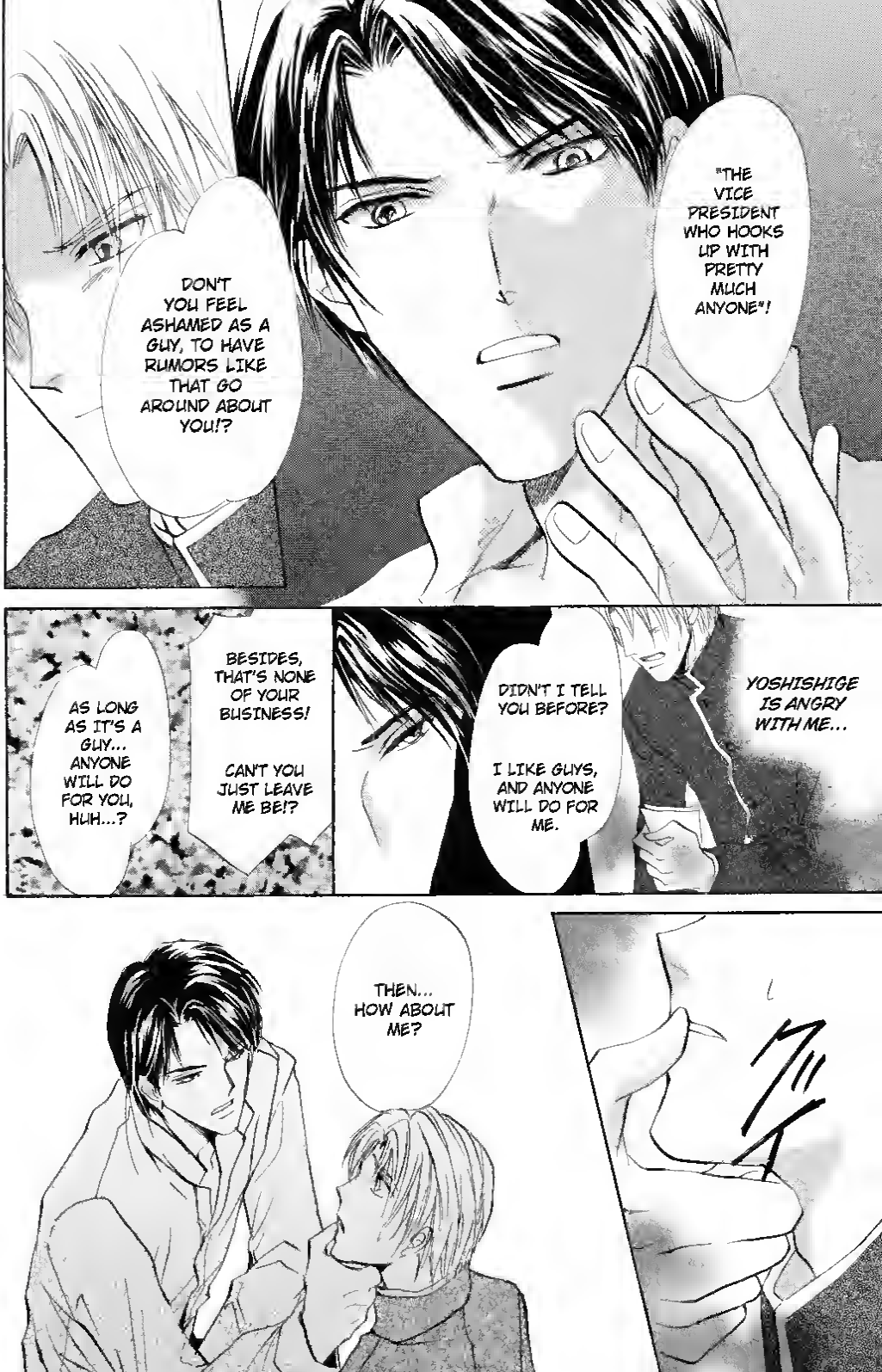
AND WHEN YOU REALIZE THAT THIS PERSON IS YOURS,
IT MAKES YOU SO HAPPY THAT IT ALMOST MAKES YOU CRY.
TOYA?
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT ...
WHY DID I EVEN ASK...
THAT BLISS WILL NEVER BE MINE!
IT WILL BE HERS..
FOR THE WOMAN HE WILL ONCE HOLD IN HIS ARMS.
I'M SORRY FOR INTER-RUPTING!
I'M SO ENVIOUS OF THAT!

OH, I'M SORRY !!
I GUESS I REALLY INTER-RUPTED SOME-THING HERE!
OH, MR. SANADA.
WHAT'S THE MATTER...?
OR CAN YOU COME AGAIN IN A MINUTE...?
ガーン
WELL, I WAS JUST ASKED BY SOMEONE TO VERIFY SOMETHING HERE.
AND BESIDES, WHO IS THE TEACHER HERE?
WHO ASKED YOU TO VERIFY WHAT!?
WELL, TOYA,
I GOT THE NOTICE THAT YOU'RE SWITCHING SCHOOLS?
HUH!? WHO TOLD YOU THAT KIND OF JOKE...!?
WELL, IT'S AN OFFICIAL LETTER FROM YOUR FAMILY, AND IT BEARS THE PROPER SEAL.
WHERE AM I GETTING TRANSFER-RED TO!?

OH, WELCOME HOME.
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED!?
WHY WAS I TRANSFERRED!?
AND... TO RYOSEI!!?
WON'T YOU SHUT UP FOR A SECOND!?
ばし!!
...TO RYOSEI!
MOM!
DAD!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I HEARD IT FROM THE YOUNG MASTER FROM SAIJO.
YOSHI-SHIGE?
DAD...
YOU STUPID IDIOT, PUTTING YOUR PARENTS TO SHAME LIKE THAT!
HUH!?

HE COMPLAINED TO US ABOUT YOUR BEHAVIOR!
AND HE ORDERED US TO HAVE YOU TRANSFER SCHOOLS SO HE CAN PERSONALLY KEEP AN EYE ON YOU!
YOU SHOULD MAKE SURE YOU PREPARE A PROPER APOLOGY FOR HIM SOON!!
DO YOU UNDER-STAND!?
DID YOSHISHIGE DO THAT!? BUT WHY !?
YOSHISHIGE!

OH, YOU'RE HERE.
!?
YOU... WHY DID YOU DO SOMETHING IMPULSIVE LIKE THAT...!?
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING !?
ISN'T THAT WHAT I SHOULD BE ASKING YOU?
AREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO'S BEEN LIVING QUITE AN IMPULSIVE LIFE...?
THESE PIC-TURES ...
I HEARD YOU HAVE QUITE A NAME AT SCHOOL, HARUKI.


"THE VICE PRESIDENT WHO HOOKS UP WITH PRETTY MUCH ANYONE"!
DON'T YOU FEEL ASHAMED AS A GUY, TO HAVE RUMORS LIKE THAT GO AROUND ABOUT YOU!?
YOSHISHIGE IS ANGRY WITH ME...
DIDN'T I TELL YOU BEFORE?
I LIKE GUYS, AND ANYONE WILL DO FOR ME.
BESIDES, THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
CAN'T YOU JUST LEAVE ME BE!?
AS LONG AS IT'S A GUY... ANYONE WILL DO FOR YOU, HUH...?
THEN... HOW ABOUT ME?
クイ

N-NO WAY...
YOU'RE THE ONLY GUY THAT'S IM-POSSIBLE FOR ME!
L-LET ME GO ALREADY!!
OH NO...
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I COULD NEVER DO THAT WITH!!
HE MIGHT FIND OUT!

NO...!
I WON'T BE ABLE TO HIDE IT ANYMORE...!
WHY...
AH!
ARE YOU SUDDENLY TURNING INTO SUCH A SOPTIE?
S-
STOP IT...
YOSHI-SHIGE !!
THAT VOICE...

WHAT A LITTLE SLUT YOU ARE!
AH!
AH!
UH ...
YOU MUST HAVE DONE IT WITH SO MANY RANDOM GUYS JUST LIKE THIS...
NO...
THAT'S NOT TRUE...!
THIS IS DIF-FERENT ...!!
BECAUSE IT'S YOU, YOSHISHIGE!!

IT'S JUST BECAUSE THIS TIME IT'S YOU, THAT I'M LIKE THIS...
WHEN YOU ENTERED YUSEI, HARUKI, I THOUGHT YOU DID THAT BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO RUN AWAY FROM ME.
PANT
S-
STOP ...!
IT'S BECAUSE THEY ARE YOUR FINGERS, YOSHISHIGE!
AND I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO BIND YOUR LIFE TO US, THE SAIJO FAMILY, OR TO ME....
SO I WISHED FOR YOU TO LIVE YOUR LIFE FREE FROM US, JUST THE WAY YOU WANTED.
BUT AFTER ALL...
I REALIZED THAT I JUST CAN'T ALLOW YOU THAT.

A-
AH...!!
YOSHI-
SHIGE...!
I JUST
CAN'T
HELP
FEELING,
...INSIDE
ME...!
LIKE SPANKING
YOU UNTIL YOU
BLEED, FOR
ALLOWING OTHER
GUYS TO DO
THIS TO YOU!!
AH!!
HARUKI!

YOU WILL ALWAYS BE MINE!
I OPENLY ADMIT THAT THAT'S HOW I ALWAYS SAW IT!
YOSHI... SHIGE...

I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT...
...THAT I WAS YOURS, MY WHOLE LIFE!
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO GIVE YOU...
EVERY-THING YOU'VE EVER WANTED FROM ME!!
DON'T WORRY...
AH!
I WILL TAKE EVERY-THING FROM YOU! EVERY BIT OF IT!!
AH!

FROM NOW ON,
YOU'LL BE MINE ALONE...!

UMM...
WHAT WILL YOU DO ABOUT YOUR GIRL-FRIEND...?
OH,
WE SPLIT UP ALREADY.
!
THAT'S FAST...
IN FACT, I WAS THE ONE WHO GOT DUMPED.
SHE SAID MY BEHAVIOR TOWARDS HER SUDDENLY... CHANGED.
BECAUSE OF A CERTAIN SOMEONE, YOU SEE...
YOU'RE QUITE THE SADIST, AREN'T YOU YOSHISHIGE...
AM I?
BEFORE, I HAD NEVER REALIZED IT THOUGH...
BUT...

DANG ...
I FEEL SO HAPPY I COULD CRY!
OH MAN...
CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT, PRESI-DENT?
I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD CRY,
BUT ISN'T IT BEAUTIFUL, REQUITED LOVE...
TOYA ...

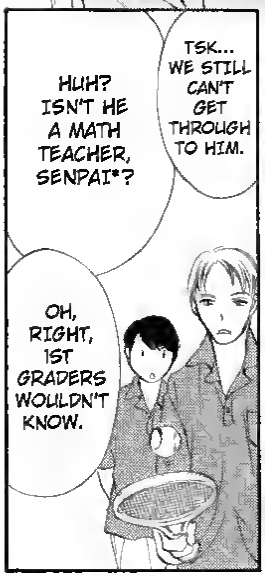
SO YOU WERE THAT TYPE OF GUY
YOSHISHIGE WILL BE GRADUATING SOON, SO WE WANTED TO BE TOGETHER AS MUCH AS WE COULD.
EVEN THOUGH I'M NOW AT A RIVAL SCHOOL, I HOPE WE CAN STILL GET ALONG.
I CAN BE YOUR LOVE MESSENGER IF YOU'D LIKE, PRESIDENT?
NO THANK YOU.
JUST GO
YEAH!
DOESN'T RYOSEI'S UNIFORM SUIT ME WELL!?
LOOKS LIKE YOU REALLY...
TRANSFER-RED SCHOOLS HUH...
WELL THEN,
GEEZ ...
I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD TURN OUT LIKE THIS.

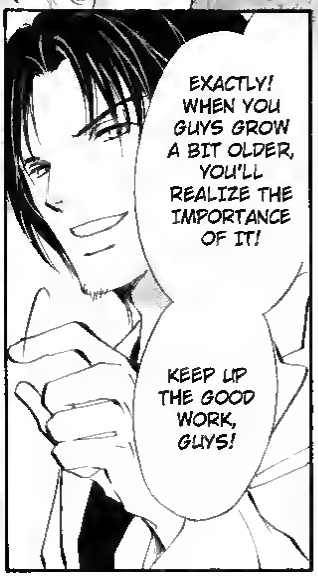
HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN MY VICE PRESIDENT ONCE.
BUT NOW HE'S JUST LIKE A DOG FOLLOWING HIS MASTER AROUND, ISN'T HE?

end.

ROMEO X ROMEO

round.3





SORRY, I CAN'T! I'VE GOT SOME OTHER BUSINESS!
OH, MR. SANADA! PLEASE STAY A WHILE TO WATCH OUR PRACTICE!
OTHER BUSI-NESS? YOU'RE GOING DRIN-KING AGAIN?

*SENPAI IS A TITLE TO ADDRESS A STUDENT OF A HIGHER GRADE.

COME IN, COME IN!!
BAR RESTAURANT 丸
STUDENTS AT ALL BOYS SCHOOLS LOVE GOSSIP ABOUT AS MUCH AS THOSE AT ALL GIRL SCHOOLS.
ALL THE WAY UNTIL COLLEGE, HE USED TO BE A PRETTY FAMOUS PLAYER!
THE RUMOR SAYS HE QUIT BECAUSE OF AN INJURY.
WHOA ...
BEING FULLY AWARE OF THAT, I, YOICHI SANADA...
BECAME A MATH TEACHER AT YUSEI SCHOOL.
SANADA!
OVER HERE!

SORRY TO HAVE KEPT YOU WAITING, SHIKURA.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
THE MEETING RAN A LITTLE LATE...
WHAT ARE YOU DRINKING? "BLACK DRAGON"? I SEE YOU'VE ALREADY STARTED OFF WITH THE GOOD STUFF.
WE'RE SPLITTING THE BILL, RIGHT?
YOU BASTARD! THEN I'M GETTING MYSELF ONE TOO!
EXCUSE ME! I'LL HAVE WHAT HE'S HAVING!!
THIS IS AKIRA SHIKURA.
HE TEACHES ENGLISH AT RYOSEI, YUSEI'S BROTHER SCHOOL.
SORRY TO HAVE KEPT YOU WAITING! A "BLACK DRAGON".
AH, FINALLY.
THIS HAS BEEN A WHILE.
IT'S ONLY RECENTLY THAT WE'VE BECOME DRINKING PARTNERS LIKE THIS.
A LONG TIME AGO, WE USED TO BE TOGETHER AT ALL TIME.

WE USED TO BE A TWO-MAN TEAM.
EVEN THOUGH WE'VE BEEN DOING THIS FOR A WHILE,
I STARTED WONDERING IF DRINKING WITH YOU, A TEACHER OF YUSEI, MAKES ME SOME KIND OF TRAITOR.
YOU WERE ALREADY A TRAITOR ANYWAY.
...BECOMING A TEACHER AT RYOSEI, ALTHOUGH YOU WERE A STUDENT AT YUSEI.
CAN'T HELP IT, CAN I? THEY WERE THE ONES WHO OFFERED ME THE JOB!
AND YOU KNOW, RYOSEI STUDENTS ARE DAMN CUTE. MOST OF THEM ARE YOUNG LITTLE MASTERS FROM SOME HIGH UP FAMILY.
HMM ?
AND, YOU KNOW?
KNOW WHAT?

I RECENTLY BECAME THE SUPERVISOR OF OUR SCHOOL'S TENNIS CLUB.
HMM ...?
I REALLY MISSED THE FEELING OF HOLDING A RACKET IN MY HAND.
BUT THOSE SIDE STEPS ARE A KILLER FOR MY BAD LEG!
HEY, HEY...
DON'T SUDDENLY STRETCH IT TOO MUCH, OKAY?
YEAH WELL, I HAVE TO DO MY BEST, EVEN IF I HAVE TO STRETCH IT A LITTLE.
THE PRELIMINARIES FOR THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP ARE ABOUT TO START.
YOU STILL HAVE THAT ATTITUDE OF ALWAYS WANTING TO WIN EVERYTHING, HUH...
...HOW ABOUT YOU?
DID YOU REALLY COMPLETELY QUIT TENNIS?
YEAH.

I SEE..
THAT'S TOO BAD.
DON'T MIND ME.
YOU DO YOUR BEST!
カキン
YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO MY ARM AT COLLEGE, RIGHT...
YEAH...
IT WASN'T THAT A DESTRUCTIVE INJURY, AND I SUPPOSE I COULD PLAY TENNIS AGAIN NOW...
BUT I WOULDN'T BE A MATCH FOR ANY ACTIVE PLAYER.
DRINK UP!
友恋
IT'S ME...
CAN YOU MEET ME NOW?
YEAH, COME TO MY PLACE.
ALL RIGHT.

I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU.
SANADA!
SANA-DA!
OUCH...

AGAIN...
EVERY TIME AFTER I'VE MET HIM, I HAVE THAT DREAM.
THANK YOU, THAT WOULD BE A BIG HELP!
SHI-KURA!
SANA-DA!
WHAT'S UP? WHY ARE YOU HERE AT YUSEI?
I CAME HERE TO ARRANGE SOME SHARED PRACTICE SESSIONS.
SHARED PRACTICE?

OUR COURTS ARE CLOSED FOR MAINTENANCE.
HMM? AND THEY TOLD YOU IT WAS OKAY?
THAT'S WHERE IT COMES IN HANDY TO BE AN ALUMNI HERE!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, YOU TRAITOR!
TSK, THAT AGAIN ...?
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, SHIKURA.
AH!
THIS IS A COPY OF THE COURT SCHEDULE.
OH, MR. SANADA! DID YOU HEAR WHAT THIS IS ABOUT?
YES, JUST NOW.
HMM...
SEE-ING YOU GUYS LIKE THIS,
...IT REMINDS ME OF THE DAYS THAT YOU TWO WERE STILL STUDENTS HERE.
HOW ABOUT IT, MR. SANADA? CARE TO JOIN THE PRACTICE WITH THEM?
YEAH THAT WOULD BE REALLY COOL, SANA-DA!
WELL... I UMM ...
I WON'T LET YOU DO ANY-THING CRAZY.
JUST THIS ONE TIME, OKAY?

COME ON...
DON'T PUT SO MUCH PRESSURE ON HIM!
HUH ...?
YOU CAN LEAVE ALL MATTERS OF THE TENNIS CLUB TO ME, AS I'M THEIR SUPERVISOR.

OH!
MR. YANO! SORRY FOR THAT!
DON'T BE. I KNOW HOW FAMOUS THEY WERE AS A DOUBLES TEAM.
MY NAME IS YANO. I'LL BE WORKING TOGETHER WITH YOU ON THIS.
...SOUNDS GOOD.
WELL, I'LL BE ON MY WAY THEN.
SEE YOU, SANADA.
YEAH ...
I'M SORRY...
I'M SORRY...

GAME, SET!
I'M SORRY, SANADA...
DAMN IT...
THIS WHOLE WEEK, FROM TODAY ON,
YOU'LL BE PRACTI-CING TOGETHER WITH THE BOYS FROM YUSEI.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO HOLD BACK AGAINST THEM, SO LET'S GET STARTED!

I COULDN'T HELP BUT COME AND TAKE A LOOK.
HE'S ORIGINALLY AN ALUMNI FROM THIS CLUB.
HE USED TO BE UNBEATABLE IN DOUBLES PLAY.
SER-IOU-SLY?
WHY DO WE HAVE TO PLAY WITH THOSE "B-CLASS" GUYS.
AND WHAT'S UP WITH HIM?
ALL RIGHT!
WHA!

IS THERE ANYONE WHO'D LIKE TO TRY FACING THOSE SERVES FROM MR. SHIKURA?
I WOULD!
WHOA...
HMM... HE HASN'T BECOME THAT RUSTY...
OKAY. HERE I GO, FUKAYA.
I'M FUKAYA, YUSEI'S CAPTAIN.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
UH!

EVEN OUR CAPTAIN WAS BEATEN!
GIVE ME ONE MORE CHANCE!
SURE!
IF YOU'D JUST STEP IN A LITTLE FASTER!
GOT IT!
I WANT TO TRY IT TOO!
ME TOO!!
OKAY, GET IN LINE.
MR. SHIKURA SURE IS AMAZING.
HE'S MADE HIMSELF POPULAR IN NO TIME.
HE'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT. HE'S GOOD AT PULLING IN ALL THE ATTENTION FOR HIMSELF.
HIS BIG STRENGTH IS HIS PURE LOVE FOR THE GAME...

N-NEVER MIND...
MR. SANADA!
CAN'T YOU SHOW US ONE OF YOUR SERVES?
YOU USED TO BE HIS PARTNER, RIGHT?
SO PLEASE!
PLEASE!
HEY, DON'T THINK ABOUT THAT, I'M JUST A PIECE OF JUNK NOW!
SANADA!
WON'T YOU JUST...
SHOW US ONE SERVE?
I WANT TO SEE IT TOO,
THAT SERVE OF YOURS.
JUST ONCE...

I'M SORRY ...
SANA-DA..
BUT PLEASE CUT ME SOME SLACK.
TSK, HOW STINGY ...
STOP GRUMBLING, AND FIND A PARTNER FROM THE OTHER TEAM TO PRACTICE RALLYING.
YES SIR
I'M SORRY... YOU TOLD ME LAST TIME TOO NOT TO PUT HIM UNDER TOO MUCH PRESSURE.
LOOKING AT THE FLOW OF THINGS AS IT WAS, I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR IT.
IT TRULY WAS AN AMAZING SIGHT, HIS SERVE...
MUCH BETTER THAN MINE...
DAMN IT...
I KNOW...

THE FIRST TIME I MET HIM...
WAS AT JUNIOR HIGHSCHOOL.
I REALLY ...
...HAVEN'T GROWN UP AT ALL, HAVE I?
WE WEREN'T PARTICULARLY CLOSE AT FIRST.
IT WAS OUR SUPERVISING TEACHER WHO PAIRED US UP FOR DOUBLES.
WE WEREN'T IN FAVOR OF THAT, BUT WE DIDN'T HAVE A SAY IN IT.
TO OUR SURPRISE, WE WERE VERY GOOD AT ANTICIPATING EACH OTHER'S MOVEMENTS.
WE BECAME AN EXTENSION TO EACH OTHER. A UNIQUE BOND THAT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO BEAT.
UNTIL ONE DAY, WHEN WE WERE IN THE SECOND GRADE OF HIGH SCHOOL.

THE RAIN ...
IT'S REALLY COMING DOWN HARD.
HOW STUPID, HURTING MY LEG ON A DAY LIKE THIS...
I THINK WE SHOULD BE HAPPY THIS DIDN'T HAPPEN DURING A MATCH.
OUCH ...
OH, I'M SORRY, AM I PRESSING TOO HARD?
N-NO... I'M SORRY, SANADA...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
DOES IT FEEL ANY BETTER ALREADY?
MY CALF FEELS MUCH BETTER NOW,
BUT MY THIGH ...
HERE?
YEAH...

HM?...
UH ...
THAT TICK-LES ...
TRY TO BEAR IT...
YOU KNOW, SANADA ...
... WHAT?
IN OUR NEXT TOURNAMENT, WE'LL BE PLAYING RYOSEI RIGHT FROM THE FIRST MATCH, YOU KNOW.
YEAH.
YOU'RE RIGHT ...
IF WE LOSE THIS ONE, THE TEACHERS ARE NEVER GOING TO FORGIVE US.
SO WE MUST DO OUR VERY BEST!
SLIDE...
SANA...
SANADA ...?

...
SANADA
!!
OH...
I'M
FINE
...
AL-
REA-
DY...
IT DOESN'T
HURT
ANYMORE...
HIS
FACE
AT
THAT
TIME...
IT MUST
HAVE
BEEN A
MIX OF
FEAR
AND
DIS-
GUST
...
HE
MUST
HAVE
REALIZED
HOW I
FELT
ABOUT
HIM.
BUT I
ALSO ONLY
REALIZED
IT AT
THAT
TIME.
WHAT
IT FELT
LIKE TO
BE
TOUCHING
HIM...

I FELT LIKE TOUCHING HIM UP IN EVERY LITTLE SPOT.
AND THEN...?
WE LOST,
BIG TIME!
THE WHOLE MATCH, HE WAS WARY OF ME BEHIND HIM,
AND HE MISSED MOST OF HIS SERVES, SOMETHING THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE ONE OF HIS STRONG POINTS.
I'M SORRY ...
I'M SORRY, SANADA...
WHAT WAS HE APOLOGIZING FOR? I WAS THE ONE WHO BROKE HIS TRUST.
AS A RESULT OF THIS GAME, SHIKURA QUIT TENNIS.
THE REASON HE GAVE FOR IT WAS THAT HE WANTED TO TAKE HIS STUDIES MORE SERIOUSLY.
AFTER THAT, WE BARELY EVER TALKED AGAIN, AND WE ENDED UP GOING TO A DIFFERENT COLLEGE.
WHEN OUR PATHS CROSSED AGAIN, WE WERE BOTH TEACHERS.
SO ...
EVERY TIME YOU MEET HIM, YOUR FEELINGS BECOME SO UNBEARABLE THAT YOU HAVE TO INVITE ME TO YOUR BED...?

I'M SORRY. I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID THAT.
I DON'T MIND IT AFTER ALL. I NEED TO TAKE A BREAK NOW AND THEN TOO.
BUT IF SEEING HIM IS SO DIFFICULT FOR YOU, WHY DO YOU KEEP DOING IT? AND WHY DID YOU SHOW UP AT PRACTICE?
I JUST COULDN'T HELP MYSELF!
THINKING THAT I WOULD GET THE CHANCE TO SEE HIM PLAY AGAIN, IT MADE ME REALLY HAPPY.
PLEASE JUST BEAR WITH ME ON THIS...

MR. SANADA IS STUCK IN A MEETING AT THE MOMENT.
MR. YANO.
HI. TODAY'S WEATHER DOESN'T LOOK VERY GOOD, DOES IT?
HOW EMBARRASSING, BEING FOUND LOOKING FOR HIM OUT HERE...
WELL, I KNOW YOU TWO GET ALONG WELL.
YOU COULD SAY WE USED TO, YES...
I JUST WONDERED IF I MADE HIM ANGRY FOR BEING SO PERSISTENT YESTERDAY.
YOU STILL HAVEN'T GIVEN UP WANTING HIM TO PLAY AGAIN...?
YEAH, BUT IT'S NOT MY INTENTION TO ANNOY HIM WITH IT.
BUT YOU KNOW, HE REALLY USED TO BE AN AMAZING PLAYER...
I DON'T CARE EVEN IF IT'S JUST HITTING A BALL BACK AND FORTH... I JUST WANT HIM TO PLAY ONE MORE TIME...
THAT SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM.
HUH...?
I'M SURE HE COULD PLAY JUST FINE IF HE WANTED TO.
HIS ARM HAS MADE A FULL RECOVERY.
JUDGING FROM THE BIG STITCH AT THE BASE OF HIS RIGHT ARM,
IT'S TRUE THAT HE'S HAD IT OPERATED, BUT...

BUT MR. SHIKURA...
HOW ABOUT YOU...?
WHEN I TOUCH HIM THERE, HE JUST SAYS IT TICKLES, SO I'M PRETTY SURE HE'S COMPLETELY FINE NOW.
OH?
HAVEN'T YOU GOTTEN USED TO THIS BY NOW?
I HEARD THAT A LONG TIME AGO,
YOU HURT YOUR THIGH...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN ... WHAT ABOUT ME...?

IT HURTS...
SO DON'T TOUCH IT!
...MY APOLOGIES.
OH!
THE RAIN HAS BECOME PRETTY HEAVY. I GUESS I SHOULD MOVE THE STUDENTS TO THE GYM.
EVERY-ONE,
GATHER HERE!
WHAT A SHOWER, HUH?

I GUESS THAT'LL BE THE END OF TODAY'S PRACTICE ...
SHI-KURA...
GEEZ, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS WEATHER!?
SANA-DA...
I'M PRACTICING MY SERVE...
SOMETHING I FAILED AT... A LONG TIME AGO...
A LONG TIME AGO? YOU MEAN ...
GAME SET!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU... TALKING ABOUT THE PAST LIKE THAT...
...
HEY, SHI-KURA!?

HUH, WHAT...
JUST STOP IT ALREADY, OR YOU'LL GET YOURSELF INJURED!
...LIKE YOU DID?
IF YOU DON'T, I WON'T STOP.
THAT'S ALL I ASK. BUT I WANT YOU TO PLAY IT SERIOUSLY!
JUST ONE BALL.
SHI-KURA...
BRING IT ON!
FINE... JUST ONE BALL, YOU KNOW.
OK.
AFTER THAT, YOU HAVE TO PROMISE TO GET INSIDE.
...?

10-アーン

...OUT.
SO IT WAS TRUE ...
YOUR ARM IS OKAY.
...
...YEAH.
IT WASN'T ANYTHING SERIOUS TO BEGIN WITH. JUST A BIT OF AN INFLAMMATION OF THE TENDON.
THEN WHY DID YOU QUIT?
I'M SURE IT CAN'T BE BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T LOVE THE GAME ANYMORE!
IT WASN'T THAT I DIDN'T LOVE THE GAME ANYMORE...

...IT JUST WASN'T FUN WITHOUT YOU.
THAT'S WHY I QUIT.
AND BE-SIDES.
I'M SORRY FOR BETRAYING YOUR TRUST THAT TIME...
I'M REALLY HAPPY YOU STARTED DOING IT AGAIN. I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO APOLOGIZE TO YOU.
...
...I WAS THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOU QUITTING THIS GAME YOU LOVED SO MUCH. I SAW IT AS A PUNISHMENT FOR MYSELF.
EH..
IT HURT SO MUCH THAT I COULDN'T MOVE.
MY LEG... IT WAS HURTING ME...
SHI-KURA?
...IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT.
...YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORGIVE ME FOR IT.
LET'S JUST GET INSIDE, SO YOU DON'T CATCH A COLD.

AND IT STILL DOES, SANA-DA.
IT STILL HURTS, EVER SINCE THAT TIME...
I'M... I'M NO LONGER A CHILD.
SHI-KURA ...
THIS TIME TOO...

OR... THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT IT WAS.
HE'S GOT THE SAME EXPRESSION AS THAT TIME.
THAT EXPRESSION OF FEAR AND DISGUST...
AH, NOW I UNDERSTAND.
WHAT... DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?
TOUCH ME...
THERE WAS NO WAY WE COULD HAVE UNDERSTOOD IT AT THAT TIME.

THERE SEEMS TO BE NO END TO THIS RAIN AT ALL.
WHOA, LOOK AT THIS RAIN!
I WONDER WHERE MR. SHIKURA IS AT? LEAVING US ALONE LIKE THIS...
HMM ...?
TOUCH ME MORE...
I COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN THAT IT WAS ACTUALLY A SENSUAL LOOK.

YOU HEARD THAT FROM HIM?
YEAH, I HEARD... ABOUT THE STITCH...
IT SHOULD BE AROUND HERE... RIGHT?
WHAT?
THAT OTHER TEACHER TOLD ME ABOUT IT...
KISS
...!
SO IT'S TRUE...
THAT TICK-LES, MAN...
LET ME... TOUCH YOU AS WELL.
NO... IT BURNS...
BUT THAT MIGHT BE SO FOR...
ANY PLACE YOU TOUCH ME...

I FEEL THE SAME.
A BURNING PAIN...
THAT NEVER CEASES.
WE REALLY DIDN'T KNOW ANY-THING.
I WAS...
AH!
I WAS SCARED TOO. I'M GLAD YOU RAN AWAY. ...BECAUSE OTHERWISE, I MIGHT HAVE ENDED UP TOUCHING YOU LIKE THIS.
AH!
THAT TIME, WHEN YOU SURPRISED ME LIKE THAT, I ALSO FELT BAD ABOUT HOW I HAD REACTED.
AND BECAUSE I FELT SO SELF-CONSCIOUS WE ENDED UP LOSING THAT MATCH. I COULDN'T FORGIVE MYSELF.
YEAH ...
ME TOO.

WE DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT OUR OWN INNER WORLDS.
...A REAL FAILURE AS YOUR PARTNER.
?
SOMETIMES IT STILL HURTS...

THERE'S STILL SO MUCH WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT EACH OTHER.
I'LL SLOWLY ASK IT ALL OUT OF YOU.
I SHOULD SAY THE SAME TO YOU!
AND I TOLD YOU, IT TICKLES!
MAYBE YOU GOT TOO USED TO IT?
WHEN IT RAINS, THE CRAMP IN MY LEG SEEMS TO RETURN BY ITSELF. IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT I QUIT TENNIS.
DON'T TOUCH IT TOO MUCH.
GO AHEAD.
UNTIL THE RAIN STOPS.
AND ONCE IT CLEARS,
WE SHOULD HEAD BACK TO THE COURT, TOGETHER.

YEAH...
I CAN IMAGINE YOUR SERVE BEING AS GOOD AS EVER,
MAKING ME PISSED ABOUT MY OWN, AS IF NO TIME HAS PASSED AT ALL.
NEXT TIME, IT'LL BE MY TURN TO SERVE.
THEN, THESE FAMILIAR SOUNDS, WILL BE THE START OF A NEW BEGINNING.

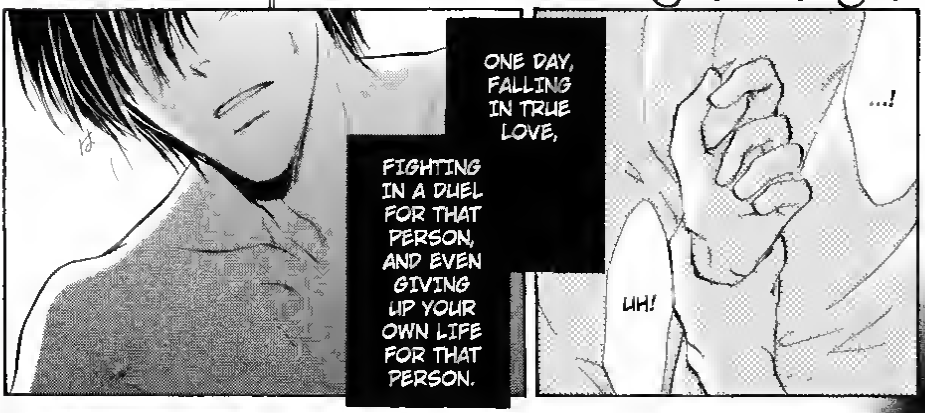
end.

ROMEO X ROMEO

DZT×DZT extra

TO BE HONEST,

THAT STORY WASN'T A STORY I USED TO LIKE.



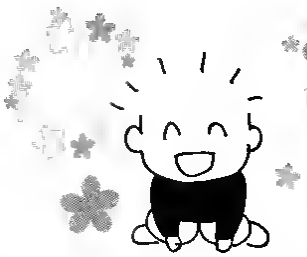
IT HURTS A LITTLE...
BUT I DON'T DISLIKE IT.
I'M SORRY...
DOES IT HURT?
...!
AH...
...!
BUT PLEASE FORGIVE ME, SHAKE-SPEARE.
BECAUSE I FIND MYSELF RIGHT NOW, EXACTLY LIKE JULIET.

I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A DREAM,
BUT SINCE THEN I'VE BEEN CONST-ANTLY ON THE VERGE OF TEARS.
REGRETTING THE MORNING THAT WE'LL HAVE TO SAY OUR LAST FAREWELL...
end.

AFTERWORD

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR READING IT!

MY NAME IS TATENO MAKOTO!



WITH THIS, I'D LIKE TO CONCLUDE THE FIRST VOLUME OF "ROMEO X ROMEO"!

I LOVED THE FACT THAT THE ORIGINAL STORY HAD A LOT OF SUBTLE NAUGHTY HINTS HERE AND THERE!

DREAMING ABOUT THOSE SUBTLE NAUGHTY SPOTS OF THE ORIGINAL STORY, THINGS KEPT ON DEVELOPING INSIDE MY HEAD, AND THIS MANGA IS EVENTUALLY THE RESULT OF THAT.

ABOUT "ROMEO AND JULIET", THE STORY THAT BECAME THE THEME OF THIS MANGA, I'VE ALWAYS LOVED ROMEO AND MERCUTIO IN A KIND OF NAUGHTY WAY SINCE MY CHILDHOOD.

TO SHOW MY GRATITUDE TO THE READERS, I'M ALREADY WORKING ON THE NEXT VOLUME IN THIS SERIES! ♡
IT'LL BE STARTING OFF WITH ANOTHER STORY ABOUT THE MAIN CHARACTERS!
HUH?
SO PLEASE LOOK FORWARD TO IT!
BYE!

LATER I CAME UP WITH THE IDEA TO MAKE THE STORY ABOUT TWO RIVAL PRESIDENTS.
ICKY GUY WITH A BAD REPUTATION AMONG HIS ASSISTANTS =D
"LET'S HAVE THIS GUY FALL INTO A SWEET MELLOW LOVE!!" IS WHAT I THOUGHT. DIDN'T IT FEEL GOOD TO SEE THAT HAPPEN!?

Romeo Romeo Vol.1
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